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REGIONAL COOPERATION

Report of the First (Economic) Committee (Part I)*

1. The First (Economic) Committee considered the question of regional cooperation (agenda item 7) at its 4th, 5th, 9th, 10th and 15th meetings, on 11, 15, 17 and 22 July. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Summary of the economic and social survey of Asia and the Pacific, 1990 (E/1991/45);

(b) Summary of the economic survey of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1990 (E/1991/56);

(c) Letter dated 16 April 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council (E/1991/59);

(d) Summary of the economic survey of Europe in 1990-1991 (E/1991/64);

(e) Note by the Secretary-General on the Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar (E/1991/67);

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* The report on regional cooperation consists of two parts. Part II contains the draft proposals recommended for adoption in the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation (E/1991/97).

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(f) Summary of the survey of economic and social conditions in Africa, 1989-1990 (E/1991/70);

(g) Summary of the survey of economic and social developments in the ESCWA region, 1990 (E/1991/92);

(h) Report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation (E/1991/97 and Add.1);

(i) Statement submitted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category I (E/1991/NGO/4).

2. At its 4th and 5th meetings, on 11 and 15 July, the Committee held a general discussion on the item.

3. At its 4th meeting, on 11 July, it heard an introductory statement by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and current coordinator of the regional commissions.

4. Also at the 4th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Netherlands (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Community), the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Thailand, Yugoslavia, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Japan, Austria, Mexico, Indonesia, Morocco and China and the observers for Australia, Senegal and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (on behalf of the Arab States).

5. At the 5th meeting, on 15 July, statements were made by the representatives of Bahrain, Algeria, Chile, Pakistan, Romania, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Zambia and Ecuador and the observer for Egypt.

Membership of Israel in the Economic Commission for Europe

6. At the 9th meeting, on 17 July, the representative of the United States of America, on behalf of Australia, 1/ Austria, Belgium, 1/ Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, 1/, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, 1/ Hungary, 1/ Iceland, 1/ Ireland, 1/ Italy, Kenya, Luxembourg, 1/ the Netherlands, Norway, 1/ Poland, 1/ Portugal, 1/ Romania, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, introduced a draft resolution (E/1991/C.1/L.3) entitled "Membership of Israel in the Economic Commission for Europe".

7. At the 15th meeting, on 22 July, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Ahmed Amaziane (Morocco), informed the Committee of the results of the informal consultations held on the draft resolution.

1/ In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

8. Also at the 15th meeting, the observer for the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya made a statement on behalf of the Arab States.

9. At the same meeting, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic made a statement in which he proposed that no action be taken on the draft resolution.

10. Statements in support of that proposal were made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq.

11. At the request of the representative of the United States of America, a roll-call vote was taken on the proposal to take no action on the draft resolution.

12. The Committee rejected the proposal to take no action on the draft resolution by a roll-call vote of 30 to 15, with 5 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Algeria, Bahrain, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Malaysia, Morocco, Pakistan, Somalia, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Zambia.

Against: Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, Romania, Rwanda, Spain, Sweden, Togo, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Bahamas, China, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Yugoslavia.

13. The Committee then adopted draft resolution E/1991/C.1/L.3 by a roll-call vote of 32 to 14, with 4 abstentions (see para. 27 below, draft resolution I). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, Romania, Rwanda, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Against: Algeria, Bahrain, Burkina Faso, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Malaysia, Morocco, Pakistan, Somalia, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Zambia.

Abstaining: Botswana, China, Trinidad and Tobago, Yugoslavia.

14. After the draft resolution was adopted, statements were made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

Cooperation in fisheries in Africa

15. At the 9th meeting, on 17 July, the representative of Morocco, on behalf of Angola, 1/ Cameroon, Cape Verde, 1/ Congo, 1/, Côte d'Ivoire, 1/ Gabon, 1/ the Gambia, 1/ Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, 1/ Morocco, Nigeria, 1/ Senegal, 1/, Togo and Zaire, introduced a draft resolution (E/1991/C.1/L.5) entitled "Cooperation in fisheries in Africa".

16. At the 15th meeting, on 22 July, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Amaziane (Morocco), read out the following revisions, which had been agreed upon during informal consultations:

(a) The fifth preambular paragraph, which had read:

"Stressing the importance of the preservation and conservation of fishery resources through clear-cut and rational management compatible with the North-South framework of cooperation, which safeguards the interests of both the countries of the region and the industrialized countries that seek these resources",

was replaced by the following text:

"Stressing the importance of the preservation and conservation of fishery resources through regional cooperation and rational management compatible with the North-South framework of cooperation, which safeguards the interests of both the African countries of the Atlantic region and the developed countries that seek these resources",

(b) In operative paragraph 5, the words "industrialized countries in the North" were replaced by the words "developed countries";

(c) In operative paragraph 6, the words "as appropriate" were inserted after the words "contribute generously";

(d) In operative paragraph 7, the words "the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in consultation with" were inserted before the words "the Chairman of the Conference".

17. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution E/1991/C.1/L.5, as orally revised (see para. 27 below, draft resolution II).

Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar

18. At the 9th meeting, on 17 July, the representative of Morocco, on behalf also of Spain, introduced a draft resolution (E/1991/C.1/L.6) entitled "Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar". Subsequently, France, Greece, Italy and Portugal joined in sponsoring the resolution.

19. At the 15th meeting, on 22 July, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Amaziane (Morocco) read out the following revisions, which had been agreed upon during informal consultations:

(a) In operative paragraph 2, the words "development of land transport arteries leading on either side to the Strait of Gibraltar and the harmonization of administrative and customs procedures" were replaced by the words "development of land transport infrastructures linked to the works across the Strait of Gibraltar and cooperation in regard to administrative and customs procedures".

(b) In operative paragraph 5, the words "within existing priorities" were inserted after the words "Economic Commission for Europe".

20. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution E/1991/C.1/L.6, as orally revised (see para. 27 below, draft resolution III).

Phase II of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994

21. At the 10th meeting, on 17 July, the representative of Indonesia, on behalf of Bahrain, China, Egypt, 1/ Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, 1/ the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Viet Nam, 1/ Yemen 1/ and Zaire, introduced a draft resolution (E/1991/C.1/L.7) entitled "Phase II of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994".

22. At the 15th meeting, on 22 July, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Amaziane (Morocco), informed the Committee that during informal consultations held on the draft resolution, it had been agreed to delete operative paragraph 4 and, in operative paragraph 6, to replace the words "developed countries" by the words "donor countries".

23. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised (see para. 27 below, draft resolution IV).

Promotion of interregional cooperation in the area of international trade facilitation

24. At the 10th meeting, on 17 July, the representative of Bulgaria, on behalf of Australia, 1/ Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, 1/ Bulgaria, Denmark, 1/ Egypt, 1/ France, Germany, Greece, 1/ Indonesia, Ireland, 1/ Italy, Jordan, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Poland, 1/ Romania, Spain, Swaziland, 1/ Togo, the United Kingdom of Great Brita[illegible] and Northern Ireland, Yemen 1/ and Yugoslavia, introduced a draft resolution ([illegible]1991/C.1/L.8) entitled "Promotion of interregional cooperation in the area of international trade facilitation". Subsequently, Peru joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

25. At the 15th meeting, on 22 July, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Amaziane (Morocco), informed the Committee that, during informal consultations, it had been agreed to revise the draft resolution by inserting the words "elaboration and" before the word "implementation" in the last preambular paragraph, and by deleting the words "Members of the United Nations" after the word "States" in operative paragraph 2.

26. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution E/1991/C.1/L.8, as orally revised (see para. 27 below, draft resolution V).

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE

27. The First (Economic) Committee recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Membership of Israel in the Economic Commission for Europe

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering the wide range of economic relations that exist between Israel and the States members of the Economic Commission for Europe,

Also considering that Israel has expressed its readiness to contribute to the work of the Commission by accepting the responsibilities inherent in full membership,

Further considering that, at its forty-sixth session, the Commission took note of the renewal of the application of Israel to the Council for temporary admission as a member of the Commission and looked forward to a decision by the Council on the admission of Israel in accordance with its application, 2/

Decides to amend paragraph 7 of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Europe by adding Israel to the list of members of the Commission in accordance with its request for temporary admission as a member of the Commission, as contained in the letter dated 16 April 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council. 3/

2/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1991, Supplement No. 15 (E/1991/36), para. 258.

3/ E/1991/59.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Cooperation in fisheries in Africa

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1990/77 of 27 July 1990,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 45/184 of 21 December 1990, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit, in close consultation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session, through the Economic and Social Council at its regular session of 1992, a report on cooperation in fisheries in Africa, including recommendations for its enhancement,

Aware of the importance of regional agreements for the promotion and development of fishery resources,

Concerned about the need to encourage these initiatives directed towards attaining food self-sufficiency, improving nutrition, diversifying exports and promoting employment,

Stressing the importance of the preservation and conservation of fishery resources through regional cooperation and rational management compatible with the North-South framework of cooperation, which safeguards the interests of both the African countries of the Atlantic region and the developed countries that seek these resources,

Bearing in mind the fact that the fisheries sector can foster the development and economic growth of developing countries,

1. Expresses satisfaction with the significant progress made by the follow-up committee of the Ministerial Conference on Cooperation in Fisheries among the African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean;

2. Takes note with satisfaction of the convening in Dakar, under the chairmanship of Senegal, of the second session of the Ministerial Conference on Cooperation in Fisheries among the African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean, from 1 to 5 July 1991, during which a number of relevant decisions were made and certain programmes prepared;

3. Welcomes the adoption by the Conference of a Regional Convention designed to regulate and strengthen their cooperation;

4. Takes note of the establishment of a secretariat in charge of the follow-up and implementation of that Convention;

5. Appeals to the entire international community to follow the rational management of fishery resources, including stock maintenance, in the interest of both the African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean and the developed countries involved in exploiting its resources;

6. Requests the organizations of the United Nations system, donor States and agencies involved in providing assistance and funding to contribute generously as appropriate to the implementation of the programmes and projects prepared during the Conference;

7. Invites the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in consultation with the Chairman of the Conference, to submit a report, as appropriate, to the Economic and Social Council on the progress made and the results obtained.

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1982/57 of 30 July 1982, 1983/62 of 29 July 1983, 1984/75 of 27 July 1984, 1985/70 of 26 July 1985, 1987/69 of 8 July 1987 and 1989/119 of 28 July 1989,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 43/179 of 20 December 1988, by which the Assembly declared the period 1991-2000 the Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

Also bearing in mind the resolution adopted on 6 January 1989 by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe regarding measures to encourage the construction of a major traffic artery in south-western Europe and to study thoroughly the possibility of a permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar,

Taking note of the conclusions of the note by the Secretary-General on the development of the studies relating to the project of a permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar pursuant to resolution 1989/119, 4/

Referring to the conclusions and the recommendations of the Third International Seminar on the Permanent Link through the Strait of Gibraltar, organized at Marrakesh in May 1990, attended by distinguished experts in the areas related to the project and by representatives of many international organizations,

Conscious of the importance of the issues linked to the project and their repercussions on the promotion of scientific and technological research at the international level,

Also conscious of the contribution of the project to the development of transport and to subregional and interregional physical integration,

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4/ E/1991/67.

1. Welcomes the cooperation existing on the project between the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Transport Study Centre for the Western Mediterranean and the Governments of Morocco and Spain;

2. Invites the States concerned and the competent scientific institutes and institutions to cooperate with the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe and the Governments of Morocco and Spain to encourage and facilitate the development of land transport infrastructures linked to the works across the Strait of Gibraltar, and cooperation in regard to administrative and customs procedures;

3. Also invites the competent agencies of the United Nations system to participate in the realization of the studies relating to the project of the permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar;

4. Requests the Executive Secretaries of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe to prepare an evaluation report on the studies relating to the project in the period 1982-1993 for submission to the Economic and Social Council at its regular session of 1993;

5. Calls upon the Secretary-General to allocate as far as possible sufficient resources to the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe, within existing priorities, for the realization of the aforementioned evaluation report.

DRAFT RESOLUTION IV

Phase II of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting resolution 47/10 of 10 April 1991 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on phase II of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 5/

Also noting resolution 170 (XV) of 18 May 1989 of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on activities of the Transport and Communications Decade in Western Asia (1985-1994), 6/

Recalling General Assembly resolution 39/227 of 18 December 1984, in which the Assembly proclaimed a Transport and Communications Decade for Asia

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5/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1991, Supplement No. 14 (E/1991/35), chap. IV.

6/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1989, Supplement No. 17 (E/1989/36), chap. III.

and the Pacific during the period 1985-1994, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/78 of 27 July 1984 on the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994,

Recalling also the section of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s concerning the improvement of transport and communications infrastructure, 7/

Recalling further its resolution 1983/69 of 29 July 1983,

Recognizing the critical role of transport and communications in economic development and the importance, therefore, of the improvement and growth of transport and communications infrastructure and services in a manner commensurate with the expected growth of all sectors of the economy generating the demand for transport and communications,

Recalling the report of the Secretary-General concerning progress made in the implementation of Council resolution 1984/78, 8/

1. Endorses resolution 47/10 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on phase II of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994, with a view to:

(a) Raising the transport and communications infrastructural facilities and services of developing member and associate member Governments to a level commensurate with their development objectives and priorities, giving particular attention to the special needs of the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries of the region;

(b) Encouraging the active participation of existing subregional groupings of the region in formulating and implementing the activities for the Decade within their respective subregions in coordination with the regional secretariat;

(c) Associating national institutions concerned with transport and communications in the implementation of the activities for the Decade;

(d) Promoting the active involvement of commercial sectors in the implementation of the activities for the Decade;

2. Recommends that the General Assembly amend the period of the second quinquennium of the Decade to cover the period 1992-1996 to coincide with the period covered by the medium-term plan, namely 1992-1997, so that adequate preparations for a regional action programme may be made, in accordance with resolution 47/10 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific;

7/ Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 3-14 September 1990 (A/CONF.147/18), part one, sect. V.C.1.

8/ E/1990/57.

3. Urges all appropriate international organizations, particularly the United Nations Development Programme, to contribute effectively to the formulation and implementation of a regional action programme for the second quinquennium of the Decade;

4. Also requests the Executive Secretaries of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia to promote intergovernmental and inter-agency coordination and cooperation at the regional and subregional levels in the formulation and implementation of a regional action programme for the second quinquennium of the Decade;

5. Invites all Governments, in particular those of the donor countries and others in a position to do so, to contribute and participate effectively in the implementation of a regional action programme for achieving the objectives of the Decade;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its regular session of 1992 and every two years thereafter until the end of the Decade a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

DRAFT RESOLUTION V

Promotion of interregional cooperation in the area of international trade facilitation

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1989/118 of 28 July 1989, in which it invited the regional commissions to formulate, jointly with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, a draft proposal for interregional cooperation for the facilitation of international trade and in particular the phased application of EDIFACT,

Noting the support expressed by the regional commissions for the project, including relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the commissions, 9/

9/ Resolution 693 (XXV) adopted by the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa (see Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1990, Supplement No. 13 (E/1990/42), chap. IV); decisions L (44) and J (45) of the Economic Commission for Europe (see Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1989, Supplement No. 15 (E/1989/34), chap. IV, and ibid., 1990, Supplement No. 12 (E.1991/41), chap. IV); resolution 47/11 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (see Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1991, Supplement No. 1 (E/1991/35), chap. IV); see also Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1990, Supplement No. 14 (E/1990/43), paras. 128-131.

Noting further its resolution 1990/74 of 27 July 1990,

Conscious of the need for coordinated action at the global level to ensure the effective promotion of international trade facilitation,

Aware that elaboration and implementation of the project would require extrabudgetary resources,

1. Requests the regional commissions, jointly with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to elaborate specific projects relating to interregional cooperation on international trade facilitation and present them to bilateral donors and funding organizations;

2. Invites all States to support these initiatives;

3. Requests the United Nations Development Programme and other funding organizations to consider favourably the specific projects submitted by the regional commissions and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;

4. Also requests bilateral donors to consider extending appropriate financial and expert assistance in the implementation of the projects.